

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:254
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL ACTION GROUP MEET
V. VETRISILVAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he visited UK recently to participate in the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Meet;
- (b) if so, the agenda of the meet;
- (c) the outcome of the meet;
- (d) whether India put forth the issue of role of Pakistan in encouraging terrorism from across the border before the meet; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which India succeeded in mobilising opinion of the participating countries against Pak?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)

- (a)&(b) Yes. EAM attended the meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) in London from 31 October to 1 November 2002. The agenda of the meeting inter-alia was to review Pakistan's suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth, and to ascertain whether Pakistan's suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth could be revoked in conformity with Commonwealth's principles of democracy.
- (c),(d) & (e) The outcome of the meeting was entirely satisfactory from our viewpoint. After detailed discussions, where India also strongly articulated its concerns, CMAG unanimously agreed that given the continued promulgation of new laws which followed extra-constitutional measures, the criticism of both Commonwealth and the EU Observer Group regarding the electoral process and the failure to establish elected legislatures with full constitutional and legislative authority, the status quo of Pakistan's suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth should continue. Terrorism was not on the agenda of the meeting.